



Fractional Market

One simply has to watch some of the recent auction to see that the market for good quality fractional continues to remain strong. Some issues, such as the Lincoln (Fr1374) or the Grant/Sherman Specimens (Fr1272-Fr1275) always command the attention of the bidders. But certainly the higher quality examples draw the most active bidding. And rightfully so, as so few become available as they are being held in high-grade collections. As such, it seems like the notes that are being sold are being graded higher than they may warrant simply because some of the bidders and those grading notes are unfamiliar with the actual quality of material that does exist. So the demand for high-graded notes, and the prices they can command, may be lowering the standards by which the notes are judged. It's somewhat like how the school systems have been forced to lower standards in some cases to a more 'common' level so their statistics reflect higher student achievement instead of keeping the standard high and judging to that.

To give you an example, I own one of the few independently graded MS-67 fractional notes which I acquired many years ago. Several respected collectors/dealers who have seen and examined the note concur that the note is indeed graded properly, perhaps the best example of a perfect note they have ever seen. However, we've seen a number of other notes recently graded at MS-66 or MS-67 that don't have the same level of quality. Their paper quality is not the same, inking level perhaps not as rich, embossing perhaps not as bold, image registration slightly off, surcharge quality not as bright, trim/margins off just a tiny bit, etc. And yet they receive the same level of quality grading.

Is this because the strong market for high-quality material is causing the standard to slip simply because people are trying to meet a pent-up demand? Or perhaps it's because those grading the notes simply haven't the level of experience to know what is hidden in some of the private collections or haven't been in this market long enough to have handled a large enough variety to better gauge the material and appreciate what indeed exists? Or perhaps they don't understand or have any knowledge about the manufacturing process or various papers to weigh the differences between the margins on a Spinner vs. a Justice note and how it affects the possible quality.

So as I've indicated in the past, there is no substitute for knowledge and years of experience with all the nuances in fractional currency, regardless of what may be written on a business shingle or some type of guarantee.

Don't forget...2007 Membership Dues are due!

As a friendly reminder...if you've not sent in your \$15 for your 2007 dues to Dr. Lee (See address in membership list), please do so at your earliest convenience.

Fractionally Yours,

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Kingwood, TX 77345
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jfochtman@bradmark.com

The FCCB Needs YOU!

Yes, the FCCB is looking for just one good man or woman. One person who is passionate about fractional and all things small in paper. One person who is dedicated to the study of these small notes and all aspects of their history. One person who can write a small meaningless ditty (like this one) four or so times a year. One person who can lead this organization. Yes, I will be stepping down as President of our fine organization at Memphis. I simply cannot continue. I am stretched too thin. Besides my job which just doubled in size and scope requiring now >55-60 hours/week, my service on the Allen School Board as a trustee and my position as President of the Society of Paper Money Collectors (SPMC), I need sleep! While I truly have loved doing the newsletter for so many years and then leading the organization as President, I simply must step down. So, if you are interested, please let me know ASAP so that we can begin some discussions. Remember, this organization is only as good as its' members and its' members have to step up to be leaders.

Speaking of Memphis, now is the time to begin planning those fractional exhibits. You actually have a couple of extra weeks this year due to the fact that the show had to change dates due to convention center conflicts and it is now July 6-8. Martin Delger is taking exhibit applications so send in one. Our exhibits have been the cream of the crop nearly every year. Last year was very enjoyable as we had three new exhibitors step up. I hope those three will do it once again and at least three more will join in.

Also, does anyone have a program they would like to present at our meeting in Memphis?

Not much has been happening on the fractional front. The year has started off slower than usual due to no large collections being auctioned early. That is a good thing in that to me at least, it means that collectors are not leaving the hobby, but are enjoying their notes. I do know that R.M.Smythe will have an auction in April that I have been told will have over 50 full postage envelopes (full—not just cut faces)!

Finally, elsewhere in this issue are pictures of one more reason to closely look at all your notes and all those in dealers' inventory at shows. I just happened to be looking over notes in an on-line auction and BOOM—there it was. A lot of the most impressive finds are somewhat subtle things we can easily overlook.

Until Memphis, I hope all of your days are fractional fun filled and hope to see you all there!

Presidentially yours;

Benny Bolin



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Inaccurate Information on General Rosecrans' Military Record and Claims of Note as Legal Tender

*By
Robert Kravitz*

The article "The Rosecrans Justice" published in the Fall 2006 issue contained a number of inaccuracies, both in General Rosecrans military record as well as the autographed Justice note depicted in the article. And while the focus of F.C.C.B. is on the history and preservation of Postage and Fractional Currency, as a student of the Civil War I feel compelled to also respond to those aspects of the article as well.

Following the batter of Stone River in January 1863, Rosecrans regrouped – for almost 6 months. On several occasions Lincoln angrily ordered him to advance. He finally advances in probably what was one of the best strategic campaigns of the War to Tullahoma – and stops. He delayed taking any further action for 6 more weeks, unwilling to commit men to battle. When they finally did battle Confederate General Bragg again, it was at Chickamauga. On the second day Rebels under the leadership of John Hood punched a hole in the line and advanced to Rosecrans' headquarters. Rosecrans fled the battle field and Generals Thomas and Grainger held the Rebels off until nightfall, when they withdrew and joined Rosecrans in Chattanooga. General Rosecrans was relieved of command of the Army of the Cumberland in September 1863 by President Lincoln and spent the next 2 years of the War behind a desk. The Civil War Almanac further documents that General George Armstrong Custer had more battle victories. As recognition for his victorious reputation, General Grant presented Custer with the table upon which was written the War's terms of surrender.

It's also interesting to note that the portraits of many of the War's great generals, such as Grant, Sherman, Scott, Sheridan, McPherson, Meade and Thomas, are on our currency. But there isn't any currency with the portrait of Rosecrans.

Contrary to Mr. Deutch's article, it was James Garfield (Rosecrans' former Chief of Staff) who telegraphed Rosecrans asking if he would accept a Republican nomination for Vice President on the ticket with Lincoln. Rosecrans had always been a strong Democrat and had doubts as to whether he could accept all the principles of the Republican party. He again hesitated in responding due to his long affiliation as a member of the Democrat party. When he finally did send his response to Garfield it was too late, and Johnson had been chosen as Lincoln's running mate. This is outlined in the papers of William Rosecrans which are stored at the Library at the University of California in Los Angeles.

The book "The Edge of Glory: A Biography of General William S. Rosecrans, USA" mentioned in the article points out that demise of Rosecrans's distinguished military career was not a result of his humiliating defeat at Chickamauga but of his difficult, uncompromising personality and the scorn he aroused in many of his superiors, including General Ulysses S. Grant and Edwin Stanton, Lincoln's secretary of war.

In terms of the Rosecrans autographed Justice note, it is not unique. The 1896 Chapman sale of the Hayes collection noted that there were 2 examples of this in the same sale. This was also noted in the Stack's catalog. There are many more fractional items that are truly unique, such as the Colby/Wyman note and the Lincoln sheet, not to mention many experimentals, essays and other items that were produced as trial items during this time period.

The note itself has also been viewed as a courtesy autographed note and not legal tender. The note's listing information in the Stack's catalog of the sale indicated this. Rosecrans term of office was not during the time that the Justice fractional notes were produced and released, and as such, he would not have had the authority to authorize them as legal tender. Furthermore, the government had issued a recall of Fractional Currency and had begun retiring the issue from use prior to Rosecrans taking office as Register. If indeed Rosecrans' intention was to authorize the note as legal tender, he would have signed in the proper space, as the facsimile of his signature appears on the notes that were issued during his term of office. His signature appears across the vignette of Justice similar to other courtesy autographed notes with a crudely written title of 'Register' handwritten under his signature. The normal location for the register signature, where the original printed title of "Register" does appears on the lower left remains blank.



(Image from Stack's Auction Archives)

Location designated for official Register signature.



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"A funny thing happened yesterday. A nice looking fellow came in and washed his hands and went away leaving his overcoat."

The Story of "Cranky Tom" Hale, And How He Was Captured by John Murray

Submitted
by BOB COCHRAN

Tom Hale was a well-known counterfeiter in the nineteenth century. At the time these events took place, John Wilson Murray was employed as a detective with the Erie, Pennsylvania Police Department. The story of Tom Hale is quoted from *Memoirs of the United States Secret Service*, by Captain George P. Burnham. The capture of Tom Hale by John Murray comes from *Memoirs of a Great Detective. Incidents in the Life of John Wilson Murray*.

The accounts of Hale's arrest differ significantly in the two sources. Both accounts place his arrest at about the same time, early in 1870. Burnham places Hale in Ohio at the time of his arrest, and implies that he was taken into custody by U.S. Secret Service agents. As the title of this article states, Murray recounts his personal experience in placing Hale under arrest in Erie, Pennsylvania. Burnham states that the counterfeit currency in question was 50-cent U.S. fractional currency notes; Murray lists other notes found in Hale's possession.

"Cranky Tom" Hale

TOM Hale was born in 1836, in Saratoga County, NY. His parents died when he was thirteen, and Tom was taken in by a kindly aunt. His aunt owned a large and valuable farm in Saratoga County, and she personally saw to the farm's day-to-day activities. Tom was brought up in relative comfort, and his aunt helped him to receive a good education. When he was seventeen, Tom was placed in charge of running much of the farm for his aunt.

Tom often had occasion to visit the Saratoga County Bank to deposit money and to draw checks and drafts in his aunt's behalf. After a few years, Tom's aunt turned the whole farm business over to him. Sadly for her, it wasn't long after this that Tom robbed her. One day he forged her signature to a check for \$300. The forgery was so good that it passed for genuine, and he obtained the money from the bank. He then collected about \$200 that was owed to his aunt and left for New York City.

Tom gravitated to the "shady" side of the city, and he was soon a leader among the thieves and rogues, planning and executing daring robberies. His sudden departure from Saratoga County aroused suspicion, and the forged check was discovered. He was captured and tried, and upon his conviction he was sent to the State Prison at Clinton for a term of three years.

When he was released he immediately resumed his habits in New York City. Hale developed an affinity for gambling, and as much as he was able to obtain by theft he lost at the poker table. One of his favorite hangouts was a bar at 16 East Houston Street, operated by Ike Weber, a known counterfeiter. Tom took a position as bartender in the establishment to occupy his spare time.

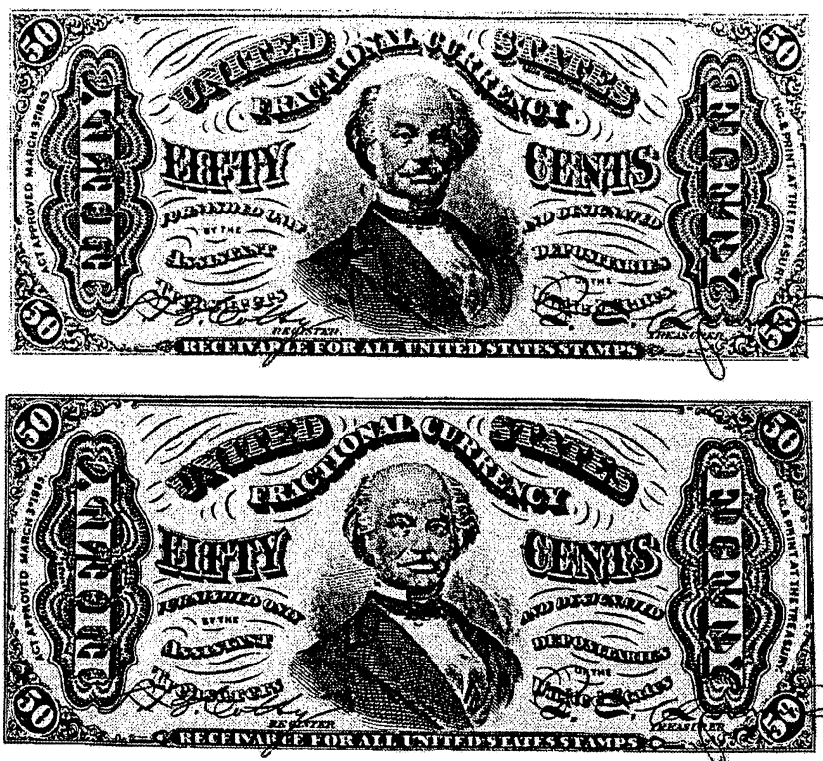


"Cranky Tom" Hale, Counterfeiter. He got his nickname thusly—whenever the authorities attempted to obtain a photograph of him, he would "crank" his facial features from normal, altering his appearance.

It didn't take Tom long to become involved with the counterfeiters who frequented Weber's bar. Ike Weber produced counterfeits of the 25 and 50 cents U.S. postal currency (fractional currency issued from August 21 to May 27, 1863) and Hale was part of the group getting it into circulation.

Tom became a wholesaler of Weber's later counterfeit U.S. fractional notes, and one of his dealers was "Pious" John Disbrowe. Disbrowe would go out into the "West" (as virtually any area west of Philadelphia was known then) and establish "agencies," and Hale would then send him the counterfeits to disburse as fast as they could be manufactured. (Burnham describes Disbrowe as "a pimp of the first water. He was ostensibly an active, prominent member of a Methodist Church in New Jersey, leader of a choir, and the head of a nice family. He could exhort and whine, and psalm-sing the leg off a brass monkey.") Disbrowe disposed of the counterfeits to the peddlers, who "shoved" them generously along the lines of the railroads in every direction.

The Story of "Cranky Tom" Hale (Continued)



A good candidate for the counterfeit 50 cent U.S. Fractional Currency notes Tom Hale was selling to his dealers and shovers. These impressions appeared in various editions of Heath's Infallible Government Detector. The top note is genuine, the bottom note is a counterfeit; the counterfeit plate for this note is attributed to William Brockway, a known associate of Ike Weber, who supplied counterfeit notes to Tom Hale.

According to Burnham, a "shover" was arrested, and he told the authorities that he had received the counterfeit notes from John Disbrowe. Disbrowe was arrested in Detroit, and he promptly told the police that Tom Hale in New York was his source of notes. A plan was developed (ostensibly by the Secret Service) to get Tom Hale to come out "West" with a supply of counterfeit notes, where he could be captured. Under direction of the authorities, Disbrowe wrote to Hale that he wanted \$3,000 of the counterfeit fractional currency at once, and if Hale would bring it out personally Disbrowe would pay him a premium in "good" money for it, plus a part of his profits already in hand.

Burnham states that Hale took the bait, and started from New York with \$3,500 in counterfeit 50-cent U.S. fractional currency notes (some seven thousand pieces). He was leery of traveling all the way to Detroit however, and arranged to meet an associate in western Pennsylvania, near the Ohio state line. The associate was to convey the counterfeits to Disbrowe. For some reason the associate failed to make the meeting (Burnham implies that the Secret Service had a hand in the associate's failure) and Hale proceeded into Ohio, where he was arrested. He was then taken to Pittsburgh where he was charged with uttering and dealing in counterfeit money.

POKE SOLES, TOM HALE AND JOHN MURRAY

(The following account is quoted from the biography of John Murray.)

Poke Soles was a "shover of the queer." An episode of his life occurred at Erie (Pennsylvania), which reveals now for the first time the story of Tom Hale, a counterfeiter, who subsequently was a side-member of the United States Secret Service. Poke's duties as a shover of the queer [or counterfeit] were to pass counterfeit money.

"In the winter of 1869 and 1870 some \$20 bills that were queer appeared in Erie," says Murray. "Fred Landers kept a restaurant in Erie, and one day I happened to drop in, and he told me of a fellow who had been in and ordered a light lunch and paid for it with a \$20 bill, and who bought a drink as he went out and offered a second \$20 bill to the bartender, who said he could not change it. I looked at the bank-note Landers had taken. It was a clever one, but it was queer. My experience with counterfeiters in the special services of the United States was of instant value. Landers described the man. I spotted him at the railroad station and got him, but did not find any of the stuff or counterfeit money on him. He was simply a shover, one who passed the money, and he received only a couple of \$20 bills at a time.

The Story of "Cranky Tom" Hale (Continued)

"Few classes of crime are organized so scientifically as counterfeiting. The man who makes the plates never does business with the men who pass the money. The plate-maker is an engraver who usually gets a lump sum for his work. Those who print the money are the manufacturers and they sell the queer in wholesale quantities to dealers, who sell to retail dealers, who have their shovers out passing the money. The man I got was a shover. I locked him up and in searching him I found the name 'Tom Hale, New York.' I reported to Crowley [Murray's boss] and sent a telegram addressed to Hale and reading: 'Come on. I am sick. Stopping at Morton House. Room 84.'

"I made all arrangements with the hotel clerk to get track of any one who called and asked for the man in room 84. No one came. I kept the shover, whose name was Soles, locked up in gaol. Landers and the bartender had identified him. A week passed. It was the winter of 1870 and the trains were blockaded and it snowed and blew and delayed all traffic. On the ninth day a nice looking man walked into the Morton House. It was bitter cold and yet he had no overcoat. He asked for Mr. Soles in room 84. I was in the hotel at the time; the clerk tipped me and I walked over and collared the stranger. I took him down and searched him and locked him up. He had several hundred dollars of good money on him, but no counterfeit money. I intended to hold him while I hunted for his baggage, for at least a man dressed as he was, would have an overcoat somewhere near.

"The next morning Officer Snyder and I went to the railroad station and began, from there, a systematic search for a trace of the stranger's overcoat. In the morning we were in the habit of stepping into John Anthony's German saloon for a mug of beer. On that morning Anthony said: 'A funny thing happened yesterday. A nice looking fellow came in and washed his hands and went away leaving his overcoat.'

"Let me see it, John,' said I.

"Anthony produced the coat. In the first pocket in which I thrust my hand I found a roll of something wrapped in a handkerchief. I drew it out and found \$1,000 in counterfeit \$20 and \$100 bills, with coupons attached to the ends. They were such excellent counterfeits that I later passed one at a bank as a joke and then told them of it. I took the coat to the lockup.

"Hello, Hale; here's your coat,' I said.

"All right. Thank you,' said the stranger, who was Tom Hale.

"I said: 'That's your coat, Tom?'

"Oh, yes,' said he.

"Then I hauled out the counterfeit money from the pocket. He then said it was not his coat. I made him put the coat on and it fitted him perfectly. Then John Anthony identified him as the stranger who had left the coat in his saloon.

"Soles was held for passing counterfeit money. He pleaded guilty and was sent to Alleghany [Prison] for five years. The United States authorities took Hale to Pittsburgh, then to New York, and then to Washington."

Mr. Wood, then the Chief of the Secret Service, felt that Hale would be valuable in fingering some of the manufacturers and large dealers in counterfeit currency in New York. Hale promised faithfully to aid the Government officials, and he clearly understood that if he didn't cooperate he would be returned to Pennsylvania to stand trial.

When Colonel Whitely was appointed Chief of the Secret Service (replacing Wood), he looked into this and other pending cases, and quickly ascertained that "Cranky Tom" had *not* performed his promises to the Government, but on the contrary had been allowed to run free, by connivance with the

old officers (of the Secret Service), and was then actually in the counterfeiting business again. Col. Whitely promptly arrested him, and sent him to Pittsburgh where he was permitted to withdraw his former voluntary plea of "guilty." A new trial was accorded him, at the instance of the new Chief of the Division. (Murray states that when Whitely sent for Hale and told him he was doing nothing, "Hale practically told Colonel Whitely to go to hell.")

His trial came before Judge McCandless of the Western District of Pennsylvania, in October 1870. In the course of "Cranky Tom's" trial, it was shown that he had been *arrested* in another district (Erie), and a motion was made by the defense to quash the indictment against him, on the ground of non-jurisdiction of the court at Pittsburgh. But the U.S. Dist. Attorney, H. Bucher Swoope, Esq., claimed that it had also been already shown upon the evidence that Hale *had passed through* the State of Pennsylvania with this counterfeit money in his possession; and he asked the jury, by their verdict, to assert that the state should not be made a highway for the conveyance of counterfeit money, anywhere.

Tom's lawyer, in closing for the defense, maintained that his client was not guilty, as set forth in the indictment against him.

"What is he *here* for, then?" pertinently inquired the Judge. "It is sufficient that he is here, and that the heinous charges against him are fully supported by plenary proof."

Tom was speedily convicted and sentenced to ten years' imprisonment in the penitentiary at Alleghany City. He was also to pay a fine of \$2500; Hale was to stay committed until the fine was paid.

Murray provides us with the final word on Tom Hale: "The last time I saw Tom Hale was about 1884. He was keeping a dime lodging house on the Bowery in New York at that time. He fared far worse in his sentence than did Poke Soles who stood up like a man when he was caught and did his time. I understood Hale never set foot in Erie again and vowed he never would. The most disappointed man was John Anthony, when the owner of the overcoat was found and the \$1,000 turned out to be queer."

(**Note:** The \$100 notes "with coupons attached to the ends" referred to by Murray as having been found in Tom Hale's overcoat are quite interesting. The description applies only to the three-year interest-bearing notes, which were issued under the Acts of July 17, 1861, June 30, 1864 and March 3, 1865. These notes were the only United States issues which had coupons attached to the notes. The coupons were used to collect the interest on the notes at six-month intervals, and the last installment of interest was collected upon presentation of the note itself. Because the interest was payable to the bearer of the note rather than to an individual, these notes circulated as did the other legal tender notes of the period. However, these notes created some problems for the Treasury Department; according to a December 1864 report from Secretary Fessenden, "though withdrawn to a certain extent while the interest is maturing, they are liable to be periodically rushed upon the market." These comments would no doubt refer to the northern public's confidence in the Union as the Civil War raged. Many of the three-year interest-bearing notes were withdrawn and replaced with the compound interest notes of the Act of June 30, 1864. Further, the interest accrued on the last issue of three-year interest-bearing notes ceased on July 15, 1868. Since these notes were worth more than their face value at the time of this

The Story of "Cranky Tom" Hale (Continued)

story (1870), a person holding one was, in effect, losing money by not redeeming the note. As of July 1, 1869 there were some \$1,201,400 in these notes outstanding, consisting of \$34,900 of the 1861 notes and \$1,166,500 of the 1864 notes. These totals notwithstanding, it would seem to be at least unusual for anyone to be holding these notes as late as 1870. Detective Murray's comment about passing the counterfeit note (and we assume he left the coupons attached) as a joke should not go unnoticed. In retrospect we would think that the bank personnel would express some curiosity over the note.

Although Murray is quite specific in his description of the "\$100 bills with the coupons attached to the ends," none of the several contemporary and later counterfeit detectors consulted mention the \$100 three-year interest-bearing notes as having been counterfeited successfully.)

SOURCES:

- Burnham, Capt. G.P. (1872). *Memoirs of the United States Secret Service*. Boston: Lee & Shephard.
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- Ordway, N.G. (1869). *American Bond Detector*. Washington, D.C.
- Speer, V. (Ed.). (1905). *Memoirs of a Great Detective. Incidents in the Life of John Wilson Murray*. New York: Baker and Taylor Company.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

Thanks to Fred F. Angus, for providing me with excerpts from the book about Murray. Thanks to Eric P. Newman and the Eric P. Newman Numismatic Education Society, for providing access to the copy of *American Counterfeits*. Thanks to Ron Horstman for providing information about the three-year interest-bearing notes from the *American Bond Detector*.



Member's Trading Post

Looking for Graphics of Satirical Notes and other Rare Fractional Items for Historical Collection Effort.

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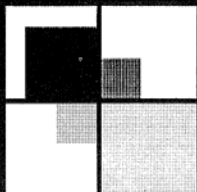
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Updated Postage and Fractional Currency Price Guide Released!

Rob Kravitz has announced a new, up to date retail pricing guide for all regular issue, specimen notes and complete sheets, XF to Gem. The guide is designed to go with his book "A Collector's Guide to Postage & Fractional Currency". The single copy price for this new guide is \$10.00 and plans call for it to be updated 3 times per year. As a special introductory offer, the guide will be available for a limited time at \$5 per copy and includes postage and handling.

You can get your copy by contacting Mr. Kravitz at:

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	A Collector's Guide to Postage & Fractional Currency Price Guide Update	Single Copy Price \$10.00
		Volume I, Issue I January 2007



The Fractional Currency market is very strong. Many new collectors are getting the Fractional Currency collecting bug. Also many more dealers are now stocking Fractional Currency.

Fractional Currency is still a good bargain. When you compare its rarity and price to large size notes, you come to the conclusion that Fractional Currency offers a great value. This has caused a surge of new collectors, more than I have seen in the last 30 years. All the high graded fractional notes are becoming more difficult to find. Most are just staying in collections. Therefore with more collectors and a decreasing supply available, the prices have been going up ever since my book came out. The demand for the high grade and rare notes will only continue. The following are my current (as of January 1st, 2007) retail prices. Soon these prices will become bargains compared to what's to come.

Thanks for taking the time to look at these updated prices.

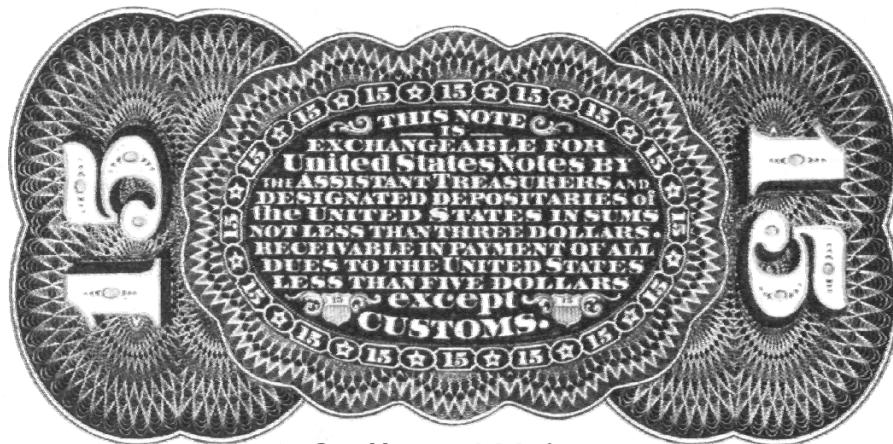
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Fun in the Sun!

By

Mike Marchioni

The 2007 FUN show was a showcase of central Florida's winter weather. Whereas, many parts of the country were experiencing heavy snows and blizzard conditions, Orlando was having a heat wave—temperatures in the low to mid 80s were about 15 degrees above normal. Man was it hot! I wish I could say the same for the bourse area. For the fractional enthusiast, the bourse was a bust. Although more dealers were stocking fractionals, most were either over priced or over graded or both over priced and overgraded. (It was the first time that I had seen an XF 1255 priced at \$159.)

The Heritage-CAA live auction and internet auctions had some interesting pieces. I was surprised to see Bill Stella's 1310a was not in the main auction, but the note brought a rather high figure in the internet sale (\$5,175). The live auction brought mixed results—some very strong prices (Superb Gem Fr1321 for \$3,220) and some rather weak prices (AU Fr1321 for \$373.75). Several notes that I would not have recommended to my clients went at surprisingly high prices. I managed to purchase one of the two notes that I was interested in.

FUN this year was not the social event that it has been in previous years. Several regulars were missing, but I managed to see Art Paradis, Musk, Wally Lee and a few other club members. I had a most enjoyable lunch with Art. Unfortunately, we had to trudge about a mile in the 80+ degree heat from the North complex to the nearest hotel (Rob Kravitz had advised us that the complex food left much to be desired—and we all know that, in addition to being a fractional specialist, Rob is an authority on food). After lunch, Art and I brought back three desserts to Rob's table to sooth his stomach. For me the two-mile walk was a major accomplishment—six months before, that distance would have been a physical impossibility for me.

I am looking forward to Memphis, but I cannot believe the dates for the show—July 6 through 8. Have you ever been in Memphis in July? FUN in Orlando was just a “warm up” for Memphis in July.



“Did You Know...”

By

Robert J. Kravitz

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As of June 1884, out of some 13,160,000 Fr1381 Crawford 50c notes issued, only 387,926 were still outstanding on the Treasury books. Then by 1933 (the last treasury estimate) only 220,000 were still outstanding.

<http://myfractionalnotes.com/>

Have you browsed member Dave Treter's Web site? If not, the next time you're on-line and have some time, consider visiting it, and perhaps even e-mailing Dave an article or some information to add!

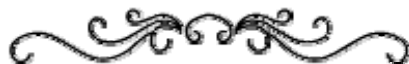


Then, consider visiting <http://currencyforums.net/> and joining the discussion group on various aspects of our fractional hobby!



(Current Membership List Information Removed)

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Dr. Wally Lee
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What Have I Found?

By

Benny Bolin

Well, I know what I found, but how did it happen? I recently found this note in an online auction (not EBAY) and it struck my eye. What is peculiar is that it has plate number "6" on the top **AND** the bottom of the note. Now, I did not think that was possible, but the proof is in the pudding. As you can see from the pictures, both plate numbers seem legitimate (meaning printed, not written). However, this is not something I or anyone else I have found has ever seen. I am taking input on what you think caused it and if you have ever seen one before. The interesting thing about the note is that not only was it in an auction from a dealer that is one of the most knowledgeable in the business, it was in a TPG holder (PMG) with no reference in the lot description or on the TPG holder of the double plate number. FYI—it no longer resides in that holder as my house has an automated system that cuts notes out of those plastic coffins on entry to the premises.

Let me know what you think. This is one of the most intriguing notes I have seen in a while.

